





# THE CAUCASIAN

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SENATOR STEWART ON THE AMENDMENT.

On the first page of this issue of THE CAUCASIAN will be found a very able and learned legal opinion by Senator William M. Stewart on the proposed constitutional amendment. It will be noticed that Senator Stewart unhesitatingly and emphatically takes the same position on this monstrous absurdity that Senator Allen, ex-Senator Edmunds, Senator Pettigrew and others have already taken. He declares that section 5 is plainly and distinctly in contravention of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. He further declares that in as much as the object of section 4 is one thing and the object of section 5 is a distinctly separate and different thing and that section 4 will be complete and uniform and operative with section 5 left out, that therefore the Supreme Court of the United States will knock out section 5 and leave the remainder of the amendment to stand.

If this is what will happen if the amendment were adopted, then how can a single honest man in the State support it? Let it be remembered in this connection that Senator Stewart was a member of the United States Senate when the 15th amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted that he took a leading part in the discussion of that amendment, and he is the only man now in the Senate who was then in the Senate. Therefore, his opinion on this question is of great weight. Besides, let it be remembered that Senator Stewart is and has always been a strong friend of the South. He was instrumental in having left out of that fifteenth amendment the provision guaranteeing that negroes should hold office. He took the position that the states ought to be left free to determine whether or not the negro should hold office and that Congress should go no further than to guarantee that there should be no discrimination against him on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

In this connection, let it also be remembered that to the efforts of Senator Stewart probably more than to any other man is due the defeat of the Force Bill. He was at that time a member of the Republican party, but he rose on that occasion, as he had often done before, above party and declared that no party law or caucus could bind him to support such a measure. Let it also be remembered that Senator Stewart is to-day an ardent supporter of William J. Bryan for President. Therefore, his views on this question are not biased by party or sectional prejudice. They are the views of a brave, bold, and true man who has the courage to express his convictions and stand by them. Besides, they are the views of one of the greatest constitutional lawyers in America.

Is it not time for the average Democratic lawyer in North Carolina who is so glibly and so lustily declaring that the amendment is constitutional, to stop and think? Is it not time for him to look in upon his own conscience and motives and to realize that he is a partisan in this business and that his judgment is liable to be warped and biased by his party prejudice and his political desires? Is it not time for these lawyers to be honest with themselves and with the voters of the State and to at least give to the poor, illiterate white voters of the State the benefit of the doubt? For surely there is not a lawyer in North Carolina, however much he may believe that the amendment is constitutional, but who must admit that there is at least a doubt about it. Let these lawyers remember that if Senator Stewart is right, if ex-Senator Edmunds (whom the Democrats admit to be the greatest constitutional lawyer in America) is right, if Senator Allen is right, if Senator Pettigrew is right, if Senator Caffery is right, and if a majority of the leading lawyers of the Senate on both sides of the Senate are right then the court will not only declare section 5 unconstitutional but will knock it out of the amendment to stand. Let these lawyers remember that if this happens, as it is more than probable it will (in fact, in the opinion of the Caucasian, as it surely will) then that there will be fifty or sixty thousand white men in North Carolina who will be disfranchised, while there will be equally that many negroes left to vote, thus putting these poor white men below the town negro.

Now we want to ask these Democratic lawyers if they can look to their consciences and advise the poor illiterate white man of the State to take these risks.

Now a word to the voters themselves. We wish to ask the voters of North Carolina, that even if these lawyers have no regard for the dangers that lurk in this amendment for the illiterate white

voters of the State, if they, the voters, will take the risk of putting this brand upon fifty or sixty thousand of our truest and best white men? Remember that Simmons and his political henchmen made fair promises in the last campaign and when in power broke and violated every pledge. Let them remember that the same men when making more fair promises are equally as liable to break and violate them everyone.

Freemen of North Carolina think for yourselves and think twice before you take this dangerous step.

## HOW IT WORKS IN LOUISIANA.

The registration of voters has just been completed in Louisiana, that State that has already adopted a grandfather clause amendment like the one pending in this State. The New Orleans Time-Democrat, the leading Democratic daily in Louisiana calls attention to the great frauds that have been committed by the Democratic registrars. It calls attention to the fact that there are in New Orleans not more than twenty-four thousand native white voters to be registered, while the registration books show that over thirty-three thousand names have been registered as native white. It further calls attention to the fact that in the Parish of St. Charles there is known to be only 310 native white voters who could register rightfully under the present law, while the registration books contain the names of 1066 who are certified to by the registrars as being native white voters. These are two samples of a score of cases of the flagrant frauds published by the Times Democrat in over a column article. The Times-Democrat openly and squarely charges that these Democratic registrars have padded the registration books, and that many of the names that are put down as native white voters are illegitimate negroes who were disfranchised by the grandfather clause amendment, and it further charges that this padding by the Democratic registrars has been done at the dictation of a lot of political bosses who want to count fictitious or disfranchised negro voters in certain counties of the State in order to overcome the opposition of the white voters in other counties to the domination of this same political machine. Now this is not a pretty spectacle for a white supremacy ballot box stuffing machine. It simply shows what will happen in North Carolina if Simmons and his gang of ballot box stuffers are permanently placed in power. It will mean political slavery to the white men who dare to oppose the machine. The New Orleans Times-Democrat says that the white men of Louisiana are feeling the sting of this political slavery in the first election after the adoption of the very amendment. White votes of North Carolina heed these facts and take warning.

## HOW IT WORKS IN LOUISIANA.

The People's Party State convention meets in Raleigh on Wednesday of next week. We trust that every county will be represented by a good delegation of wise and level-headed men. It is an important convention, and we should have the wisest and most patriotic heads in the party together. We know that members of the People's Party as a rule have no extra money to spare and that therefore it is quite a tax on delegates from a distance to attend. We trust, however, that in distant counties where all the delegates cannot attend on account of the expense, that they will all club together and pay the expenses of one or more so that the county may be justly represented.

The Raleigh News and Observer announces in a double-leaded editorial that it has "indisputable evidence" that the railroads are at work to try to defeat the nomination of the present railroad commissioners or corporation commissioners as they are now called, and to have the Democratic convention name other men who will be more under the control and influence of the railroads. If that paper has such evidence it does right to sound the note of warning; but we suggest that the public, ought to be taken more into its confidence and some of the facts and evidence given, so that the individual voter might know how to use his own judgment and efforts in the matter.

## NOW LET THEM BE "SPIT UPON."

In another column of this issue we publish an extract from the last Democratic Handbook. It will be seen that the Democratic party officially pledged the people that if the Democratic party was put in power it would not attempt to disfranchise a single voter in the State, white or black. The Handbook went further, and denounced as a liar and as a slanderer everyone who made any such charge. Not only this, but the Handbook went further and declared that a Democratic State Convention would spit upon any man who would even offer such an unjust and undemocratic proposition. The State is familiar with the Simmons machine laid the party lash on the members of the last legislature and gagged and whipped them into swallowing their own words and solemn campaign promises and doing that which they had pledged the people not to do. They forced the legislature to submit a most odious and dangerous scheme. The Democratic State convention met yesterday. Did it spit on Simmons and his machine? No. Another broken pledge. Now let the honest rank and file make good the party pledge and proceed to "spit upon" these men at the polls.

## EVEN DEMOCRATS DO NOT BELIEVE IT.

The following is from the editorial columns of the Raleigh News and Observer:

The Times-Mercury, negro organ that poses as a Populist, says there will be three electoral tickets in this State in November. It was a part of the trade between Pritchard and Butler that the latter should do all he could to give the State to McKinley by running a side-show electoral ticket. The Times-Mercury is only confirming the terms of the fusion trade.

That paper publishes so many brazen falsehoods and never has a honesty or decency to correct any of them even when it knows it has published a base falsehood that it has about lost all of its power for evil. It is hardly any longer necessary to take the time and trouble to brand any lie that appears in its columns. Even its Democratic readers do not believe it. But even if the above base falsehood needed any attention we can afford to be silent and let time brand it as a lie, as time will.

From present indications it seems that there will be an early adjournment of Congress. Prominent Administration leaders in both Houses are quoted as saying that Congress will probably adjourn as early as the first of June.

Dr. E. A. Alderman, the young, brilliant, and progressive President of the State University, has been elected President of Tulane University of New Orleans. It is gratifying to see the great universities in other States turning so frequently to North Carolina in search of able Presidents and professors; but we trust that Dr. Alderman will not feel that it is his duty to leave North Carolina, however flattering the call to Tulane University may be. The University of North Carolina is the greatest University of the South, and it should be able to hold in its service the ablest educators we have produced in the State. If, however, Dr. Alderman should leave us, we trust that within a few years at least he will return to us as Dr. Winston has.

A subscriber writes us to know if it is a fact that the registrars under the present election law are not required to take any oath to be fair and honest in registering voters and to do their duty in that capacity. In answer we state that there is no provision in the present election law requiring the registrars to take an oath to perform honestly and conscientiously their duty as registrars. Further than that, Senator Franks offered an amendment when the legislature was in session providing that the registrars should be sworn, and the Simmons machine sent in to the legislature its orders that that amendment must be voted down, and it was voted down. But even if the registrars were required to take an oath under the present law it would do but little good, because he can steal and cheat according to the provisions of the letter of the law. In fact, the purpose of this election law is to legalize stealing and fraud.

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## GOOD NEWS FROM CHATHAM.

Men of Chatham Indignant Against the Fraudulent Election Law and are Determined to See That Their Votes are Counted as Cast.

SILER CITY, N. C., April 5, 1900.

EDITOR CAUCASIAN.

Permit me to write you a line to say that our county convention on a very large and enthusiastic one. I never saw a more determined crowd of men assembled. There is more feeling and indignation against the election law than anything else. The men of Chatham feel that we are free people should submit to such an outrageous law prepared for stealing their votes. If we allow a band of ballot box stuffers to count out and steal our votes then we are no longer free and the State will be ruled by a corrupt machine. We will not allow this. Every county will do its duty. I will produce a certificate of the registrar in the former township, ward or precinct that his name has been erased from the registration books of the ward and precinct in which he has been removed, and the identity of any person claiming the right to be registered in any precinct of the same county by virtue of said certificate, with the person named therein, shall be proven by the oath of the claimant, and when required by the registrar, by the Registrar is authorized to ask Every person found and adjudged by the registrar qualified as an elector shall take the following oath: "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am not a person who has been removed from the registration books of the ward and precinct in which he has been removed, and the identity of any person claiming the right to be registered in any precinct of the same county by virtue of said certificate, with the person named therein, shall be proven by the oath of the claimant, and when required by the registrar, by the 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